

SECRET

Chief, SR via WE

REDWOOD/LC/IMPROVE/AERGDYNAMIC -- Oleg Nikolayevich KROMENKO (201-332904); and the Society for Cultural Exchanges with Ukrainians Abroad

REFERENCE: OCOA-10020

1. The attachment, which has been written up in sterilized form and which may be passed to SMABOVE as is, contains some of our comments and what limited information is available to us on the Society for Cultural Exchanges with Ukrainians Abroad, Headquarters, in turn, would appreciate any information SMABOVE may have on any of the individuals mentioned which is not contained in the attachment.

2. FYI we are listing below the 201 file numbers on the individuals mentioned in the attachment.

Mykhailo A. LEVISHCHENKO (201-756162)
Mykola TARNAVSKY (201-333114)
Kateryna KOLOSOVA (201-760594)

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SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
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Attachment: As Stated

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- 1 - RID/DEW/c at
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- 1 - SR/O/WE, w/o
- 2 - SR/CA, w/att

CROSS REFERENCE TO		DATE/TIME	
74-124-29/3		12 NOV 1965	
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74-124-29/3

1. Unfortunately we have no very enlightening comments to make concerning KIHOMENKO's claim that he would be taking over the position of Chairman of the Society for Cultural Relations with Ukrainians Abroad. The reported great interest he took in contacting Ukrainians in Canada would seem to be in line with such an eventuality. The assignment of an individual experienced in KGB operations to direct the activities of this Society would also appear to be in line with the recently intensified activities of the Society directed against Ukrainian emigres, although one might expect a more senior individual. It has never been clear who in this Society wields the most power, although Yuri SMOLYCH appears to be the titular head. Insofar as we have been able to determine from Western citizens who travelled to the Soviet Union during the past two or three years, the Society frequently plays host to tourist groups composed of Westerners of Ukrainian birth, at which time the tourists are given a rosy picture of the great progress in the UkSSR under Communism. Ukrainians never had it so good so why not tell all your friends back home to put a stop to the nonsense being preached by the bourgeois nationalists. The Society publishes the newspaper Visti z Ukrainy (News from the Ukraine), which it mails to Ukrainians in the West.

2. During a visit in the United States and Canada by a group of prominent Soviet Ukrainian cultural leaders in December 1964 Ukrainian emigres were sounded out on their willingness to initiate "cultural exchanges" with Soviet Ukrainians. The Soviets spoke deprecatingly of their Progressive colleagues in the West, implying their inferiority in cultural and propaganda efforts. To date, no cultural exchange committees have been organized by nationalist Ukrainian emigres, but a new twist to Soviet efforts in this regard was a letter sent in July of 1965 to a Ukrainian emigre in the mid-West. The letter was signed by Y. SMOLYCH as "Head of the Association for Cultural Contacts with Ukrainians Abroad" and by M. LEVYSHCHENKO as "Responsible Secretary of the Association". The letter reads as follows: "Esteemed countrymen! We read with great interest your short letter in which you inform us about the establishment in your city of a society for cultural ties with the UkSSR. In accordance with your request, we gladly will send you newspapers, books and other materials but we ask you to write and inform us of the address to which they should be sent and

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specifically what books and materials you will need. We also shall be grateful if you will inform us as to the aims of your organization, qualifications for membership, etc. Awaiting your reply we remain, with respect," and signed as noted above. This was rather puzzling to the recipient since no attempts had been made to establish such a group. Another Soviet effort to push the cultural exchange idea was also made known to us. An officer of the League of Ukrainian Americans (Progressives) from New York who had visited the Soviet Union this past summer brought gifts of china to a Ukrainian emigre in New York (who had met with Kateryna KOLOSOVA (see below) during the latter's visit in the United States in December 1964.) The bearer of the gifts sounded out the Ukrainian on his willingness to initiate the organization of a committee for cultural exchanges with the UkSSR.

3. Following is the extent of what we have been able to ascertain on the Society from Mykhailo Aleksandrovich LEVISHCHENKO. LEVISHCHENKO was in Canada and the United States with a group of prominent Soviet Ukrainian cultural leaders (including Kateryna KOLOSOVA) in December 1964. Shortly after his arrival in the West he sent word via an unidentified member of the Ukrainian permanent delegation at the United Nations to a source of ours in New York that he would like to meet with the source (whom he had already met when the source visited in the Ukraine the previous year and whom he had wine and dined at that time). He also expressed a wish to talk with a representative of an emigre group to which a confidential source of ours belongs. During the meeting which was arranged with the source LEVISHCHENKO told the source that he was representing the Ukrainian Society for Cultural Contacts with Ukrainians Abroad and that he holds the position of senior secretary. He said he was directly subordinated to Yuri SMOLYCH, whose deputy is Mykola TARNAVSKY (a former editor of The Ukrainian News - Communist newspaper in New York City - who left the United States for the USSR in October 1958 and never returned). He described the Society as a citizens' organization, not a governmental institution. He said it was organized by Ukrainians who previously had been employed with the Berlin Committee for Return to the Homeland and that it was being financed by "Ukrainian Trade Unions". He said the SMOLYCH organization was not subordinated to the Russian (Moscow) Committee for Cultural Contacts, nor to Kateryna KOLOSOVA's Ukrainian Society for Cultural Contacts with Foreign Countries. In other words, KOLOSOVA, according to LEVISHCHENKO, chairs the Ukrainian committee responsible for contacts with emigres in the entire West while, he, LEVISHCHENKO is concerned only with contacts with Ukrainian emigres in the United States. (In 1964, Viktor CHERNYAVSKY, 2nd Secretary, Ukrainian permanent mission to the United Nations, told a source

of ours that LEVISHCHENKO's organization was a "segment" of KOLOSOVA's organization, and that the latter was directly subordinated to the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.) In reply to who actually was in charge of SMOLYCH's organization, LEVISHCHENKO said it was someone in the CC CP Ukraine but he did not know the name of the individual. LEVISHCHENKO stated his reason for wanting to meet with a representative of the Ukrainian emigre group was to determine whether it was possible to broaden the group's "positive" policy toward the UkSSR and whether the group would support the UkSSR in a manner similar to the Progressives in the West; i.e., cease attacks against the UkSSR and the Soviet system and point out the positive aspects of life under Soviet Communism. Our source in turn enumerated for LEVISHCHENKO the changes Ukrainian emigres wanted instituted in the UkSSR before they would consider ceasing attacks on the present Soviet regime. The address available on LEVISHCHENKO is: wul. Sichnevoho Powstanya 26, Kiev.

4. Kateryna KOLOSOVA, according to our information, is Chairman of the Presidium, Ukrainian Association for Cultural Contacts with Foreign Countries, with offices in Kiev, 21, wul. Kirova 5a. Telephone: 30167. When she was in the United States in 1964, KOLOSOVA praised life in the Ukraine under Communism and expressed the need for a committee in the West for cultural exchanges with Ukrainians in the UkSSR. She was assessed by our sources as an individual who obviously enjoys a lot of authority and she appeared to outrank LEVISHCHENKO. There appears to be a classh between the two and each warned Ukrainian emigres with whom he spoke not to deal with the other. There are no doubts but that both are associated with the KGB in one capacity or another. A Soviet citizen with whom there has been contact by our sources implied that KOLOSOVA was being primed for the assignment of Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, which post was vacated several months ago when Luka PALAMARCHUK was reassigned. Other Soviets have named other candidates so it is probably merely speculation. Both KOLOSOVA and LEVISHCHENKO have feted Western citizens of Ukrainian birth when the latter have visited in the Ukraine and have helped to expedite their visas and permission for them to travel from one city to another.

5. As to Yuri Korneevich SMOLYCH, (born 1900 in Uman, member of the Union of Soviet Writers since 1932), he was appointed a member of Mikhailov's Committee for Return to the Homeland in 1956 and wrote for its newspaper. As noted above, as an older trusted Soviet citizen he is the Head of the Association with which LEVISHCHENKO is connected but he appears to be merely a figure-head in the organization. Western tourists to the Ukraine, according to our information, never meet him personally. It is usually LEVISHCHENKO who talks to the tourist groups or individuals who find themselves directed to the Association's offices in Kiev.